



## Newsletter February, 2008

### Black History Month

If you have not seen the new PBS documentary African American Voices 2, with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., you are missing out. When you see Chris Rock learn of the Civil War veterans in his family, Tina Turner learn more about her generous great-grandfather who donated land for a school, or Morgan Freeman see a touching photo from a cemetery, you know students are going to be engaged. The resources link is also full of great resources for teachers.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aalives/index.html>

### Master Teachers Wanted

The Miller Institutes are looking for teachers who will be responsible for presenting pedagogy alongside the content provided by the University professors. Mentor teachers will receive a \$1,000 stipend in addition to their inclusion in the summer institute's activities. E-mail [robert.austin@schools.utah.gov](mailto:robert.austin@schools.utah.gov) for the application.

### Elementary Core Revision Update

The core for grades 3-6 is being revised. Please look over the core, and then provide comments. The core:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/socialstudies/default.htm>

The survey: [http://www.myutips.org/tests/show\\_test.cfm?mypage=1&folder\\_ID=312949](http://www.myutips.org/tests/show_test.cfm?mypage=1&folder_ID=312949)

### Saturday Seminar March 15: Congressman Jim Matheson Speaking

We have just confirmed that Congressman Matheson will join us on March 15 as part of our Saturday Seminar, one of our Campaign for the Campaign events offered in conjunction with UCSS and Granite and Jordan school districts. For more information and to register: <http://www.solutionwhere.com/provo/cw/showconference.asp?606>

### Campaign for the Campaign

New web resource for all your Election 2008 needs: <http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/civics/campaign/>



## Utah Geographic Alliance Spring Conference March 7

"Asia--Continent of Contrasts" March 7, 2008, Davis Conference Center, 800 West Heritage Park Blvd  
Layton, Utah 84041

Register now at <http://www.ngsednet.org/uga>

There will be sixteen sessions on "Asia--Continent of Contrasts" within four strands: Technology, Curriculum and Instruction (both elementary and secondary), World Culture and History, and Geography Initiatives. Registration/Breakfast 8:00, Conference 9:00 to 4:00. Pre-registration accepted to February 22nd ---\$25. Registration after February 22nd or at the door -- \$30. Pre-service Geography educators -- \$10 Continental breakfast and lunch included with registration.

If you are interested in presenting, send your name, contact information, and proposed workshop title and description, to Kevin Poff at [kpoff@dsdmail.net](mailto:kpoff@dsdmail.net). Proposals will be accepted until February 22, 2008, or until all workshop slots have been filled.

Please send nominations for Utah's Outstanding Elementary Geography Educator and Utah's Outstanding Secondary Geography Educator to Norma Jean Remington at [nremington@dsdmail.net](mailto:nremington@dsdmail.net). Please include a paragraph as to why they should be selected and their contact information: name, school, grade, address, e-mail, phone. Deadline is February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We are also looking to recognize the top Geography Action project tied to the 2007-08 theme: "Asia--Continent of Contrast." Visit <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction/> for the national picture and scoop. A \$75 award will accompany the project winner. This is open to all geography educators. Deadline is February 22nd with nomination to [nremington@dsdmail.net](mailto:nremington@dsdmail.net)

## What's For Dinner? - The Omnivore's Dilemma, March 13

The Utah Museum of Natural History will be sponsoring a workshop for teachers prior to the guest lecture by noted author Michael Pollan, This workshop, limited to 25 teachers, will be held from 5:30 to 6:45, just prior to Pollan's lecture at Abravanel Hall on Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup>. It will focus on the impact of the industrial food system, and alternatives including the use of local food sources. Geography and U.S. History lessons will be provided for both elementary and secondary teachers based on the issues raised in Pollan's book The Omnivore's Dilemma. Participants will also receive a copy of Pollan's book, a light dinner using some of Utah's local food sources, and a ticket to Pollan's lecture that immediately follows the workshop, all for the bargain sum of \$10. To register:

<http://www.solutionwhere.com/provo/cw/showcourse.asp?609>

## From Madison to MTV: Your Right to Say It, April 1

The Bill of Rights Institute based in Arlington, VA, is coming to Utah April 1 to present a one-day seminar on teaching about the First Amendment. This seminar is open to teachers of students in grades 9 – 12. The free seminar includes materials, continental breakfast and lunch. For more information and to register: <http://www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/ApplyOnline>

## Teaching the Holocaust: A Workshop for Educators

This workshop for middle and high school social studies and language arts teachers is sponsored by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum with cooperation from the USOE and the University of Utah. The workshop is free, with materials and lunch provided as well as .5 USOE credit. April 10 at the U of U, 8:15 to 4:30. Register online at

<http://www.ushmm.org/education/foreducators/currentapplications/>

## 2008 Gateway to Learning Workshops at the Tanner Humanities Center

Want a great way to earn college credits and learn new content? Attend the workshops offered by the THC. You earn 3 semester hours of credit for only \$40 per workshop. Those sessions of particular interest to social studies include June 9 – 13: China Past and Present; June 16 – 20: Latin American Studies: Cultures and Histories of Latin America from 1492 to the Present; June 23-27: Reconstructing Utah History, and July 14 – 18: Documentaries Go to School: Documentary Techniques in the Curriculum. For more info or to register call 581-3732, e-mail [Melanie.ward@thc.utah.edu](mailto:Melanie.ward@thc.utah.edu) or visit the web site at [www.thc.utah.edu](http://www.thc.utah.edu)

## USOE Summer Classes

We will be holding endorsement classes this summer, as usual. This summer we will hold classes in Ancient World History, Modern World History, World/Cultural Geography, and another Social Studies Methods class. We are securing professor commitments now and will have the dates for the classes on the social studies calendar very soon.

## National Archives Seminar in Denver

**Primarily Teaching: Original Documents and Classroom Strategies.** The week long institute will be held July 14-18, 2008, at the Rocky Mountain Regional Archives located in Building 48 at the Denver Federal Center at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Kipling Street, Lakewood.

**Primarily Teaching** is designed to provide access to the rich resources of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for educators at the upper elementary, secondary, and college levels. Participants will learn how to research historical records, create classroom materials based on the records, and present documents in ways that sharpen students' skills and enthusiasm for history, government, and the other humanities.

- The cost of the institute, including all materials is \$100.
- Graduate credit from a major university is available for an additional fee.
- Space is limited; interested persons are encouraged to apply early.

An application for the institute is available online at  
<http://www.archives.gov/education/primarily-teaching/>

## NEH Landmarks

"The Hermitage, Andrew Jackson, and America 1801-1861"

This is just one of the NEH Landmarks of American History courses being offered this next year. This session is also a "We the People" Teacher Workshop. It will be held at The Hermitage: Home of President Andrew Jackson, Nashville, Tennessee.

Information and application forms are now available online at

<http://www.neh.gov/online/education/participants/> for Workshop 1: June 22-June 27, 2008 and Workshop 2: July 6-11, 2008.

Contact: [lahmtsu@mtsu.edu](mailto:lahmtsu@mtsu.edu) or Kathy Slager @ 615.898.5798

For the full schedule of sessions, check this link: <http://www.neh.gov/projects/landmarks-school.html>

## Gilder Lehrman 2008 Summer Seminars: Applications Due Feb. 15

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is pleased to announce the 2008 Summer Seminar schedule. There are **thirty-two** seminars available this year, with **fourteen new** topics, including **Justice Sandra Day O'Connor**, The American Judiciary; **Edward L. Ayers**, The South in American History; **Carol Berkin**, From Colonies to Nation: America in the 18th Century; **Christopher L. Brown**, British and American Antislavery ; **Nancy Cott**, Twentieth Century Women's Rights Movements; **John Demos**, Everyday Life in Early America; **Fritz Fischer**, Teaching American History through Documents (for elementary school teachers); **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.** and **Evelyn Higginbotham**, African American Lives; **Michael Kazin** and **Michael Flamm**, The Sixties in Historical Perspective ; **Steven Mintz**, Teaching Digital History ; **Patricia O'Toole**, Woodrow Wilson and the War Years; **Christian Ostermann**, The Cold War; **Orlando Patterson**, Key Moments in American Freedom ; **Ted Widmer**, The Age of Exploration; For more information and to apply online, click here:

<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/seminars1.html>

## GEEO (Global Exploration for Educators Organization)

Would you like to earn professional development credit while seeing the world? Would your students benefit by learning from a teacher with first hand experience in other countries? Would you like to travel abroad affordably on subsidized trips designed specifically for educators? If this interests you please visit [www.geeo.org](http://www.geeo.org). For the summer of 2008, we will be running trips to Peru, Tanzania, Nepal and India. GEEO is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to helping educators travel internationally and bring their experiences back into the classroom.



## Davis: Globe-trotting contest

Students show range of knowledge, from volcanos to lizards

By Tabatha Deans

Close-Up Staff

[Salt Lake Tribune](#)

Students at Orchard Elementary in North Salt Lake are far too young to have spent a lot of time traveling around the world.

But that didn't stop them from showcasing their knowledge of the planet as they faced off during the school's annual geography bee.

Nine students - each had won the classroom competitions - competed for the school championship by answering questions about landmasses, rivers, volcanoes and historic places.

Debbie Popee, the school's enrichment-model specialist, organized and moderated the geography bee.

"This is kind of a rough competition," said Pope. "Unlike spelling bees, the students don't have any idea which questions are going to be asked. They have to study everything on their own and hope they've studied the right things."

The competition began with each competitor being given a map of the United States, which included unemployment statistics. Students were allowed to use their maps to answer questions, such as "which state bordering Alabama has the highest unemployment rate."

They were given 15 seconds to answer the questions.

The first round eliminated more than half, and the remaining students went on to the next round. It included questions about rivers, rock formations and lakes.

Mitchell Stansfield, 10; Spencer Coleman, 10; and Tad Fulkerson, 12, advanced to the final round, answering questions, such as "Lassen Peak, a volcano in the southern section of the Cascade Range, is located in which state?" (California).

Mitchell and Tad faced off in the championship round, where they both answered their questions correctly. The competition intensified as the two were given the tiebreaker question: "The Gila monster is a poisonous lizard native to the Gila River Basin of which continent?"

Mitchell said he's always been interested in geography and has been studying for the competition since Christmas.

"I got a Smart Globe for Christmas, and it tells a lot about different places," said Mitchell. His extensive knowledge wasn't quite enough to take the school title, and Tad emerged as the school winner after answering the question correctly. (North America)

"I was pretty confident competing," said Tad. "I don't like to be nervous, so I just studied and hoped I knew the answers."

As the winner, Tad will now have to complete a 70-question, multiple-choice test. If he passes, he will go on to compete against other students along the Wasatch Front, with those winners advancing to the national competition.

***tdcans@sltrib.com***

**Questions of comments about the newsletter?** Want your event publicized? Have a great resource you want to share?

Contact: [Robert.austin@schools.utah.gov](mailto:Robert.austin@schools.utah.gov)

The resources cited here do not imply an endorsement by the Utah State Office of Education, unless they are programs we sponsor or co-sponsor. Then we wholeheartedly endorse them.